

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, and claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-10 will be pending.

Response to Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

- A. **Claims 1-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Prasad et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0082427 A1) in view of Goodman (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0173615).**

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 10 are patentable over Prasad in view of Goodman, at least for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a fuel cartridge for a fuel cell, that is stored with liquid fuel to be supplied to a fuel electrode in the fuel cell and that is attachable and detachable to/from said fuel cell. The fuel cartridge comprises a fuel storage chamber whose an inner surface is made of resin that is resistant to said liquid fuel and a case that contains said fuel storage chamber internally and that is made of impact-resistant resin, and a fuel supply part that is connected to said fuel storage chamber and that supplies said liquid fuel to said fuel cell. Moreover, amended claim 1 recites that the fuel storage chamber and the case are jointly integrated.

In contrast, Prasad does not suggest that an outer container and an inner container are jointly integrated. See Figs. 2-4 of Prasad, which shows that a cartridge has an outer container in which an inner container (bag) that contains fuel and an inner container (bag) that contains waste liquid are inserted. Two inner containers (bags) are deformable in the outer container so that two

inner containers can take any shape, as shown in Figs. 2-4 of Prasad. Therefore, Prasad does not teach or suggest jointly integrating an outer container and an inner container.

Moreover, it is preferable that a fuel cartridge has both resistance to liquid fuel and impact resistance. However, in the current technical level, there is no material which has both resistance to liquid fuel and impact resistance. Accordingly, in the presently claimed invention, an inner container (fuel storage chamber) and an outer container (case), which are made of different kinds of resin having different characteristics, are jointly integrated in order to achieve a fuel cartridge having both resistance to liquid fuel from inside and resistance to impact from outside. In particular, impact resistance of the fuel cartridge is much improved by jointly integrating two containers.

Applicants respectfully submit that Goodman does not cure the above discussed deficiency in Prasad. Accordingly, present claim 1 is patentable over Prasad in view of Goodman. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 10 are also patentable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 10 based on Prasad in view of Goodman.

B. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Goodman, and in further view of Yonetsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,506,513 B1).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-9 are patentable over Prasad in view of Goodman, and in further view of Yonetsu, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, and because Yonetsu does not cure the above discussed deficiency in claim 1 based on Prasad in view of Goodman.

Furthermore, although Prased teaches a pressurizer, the pressurizer of Prasad is different from the pressure adjustment member of the present application. The pressurizer of Prased pressurizes an inner container (bag) that contains fuel, and then the fuel flows out from the inner container by increased pressure due to the pressurizer.

In comparison, the pressure adjustment member of the present application includes a gas-liquid separation film, which keeps the inner pressure of an inner container (fuel storage chamber) at an ordinary pressure. When the fuel in the inner container is reduced or exhausted, the inner pressure of the inner container is reduced, in particular, in a case that the inner container and an outer container are jointly integrated. The pressure adjustment member of the present application prevents the inner pressure of the inner container from becoming too low to allow the fuel flowing out and also from becoming too large. Further, the inner pressure of the inner container is kept at ordinary pressure, and the pressure adjustment member does not increase the inner pressure more than ordinary pressure. Therefore, the pressure adjustment member does not act as a pressurizer for making the fuel flow out. The fuel flows out from the inner container due to the different mechanism from Prased.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-9 are patentable over the combination of Prasad, Goodman and Yonetsu, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 7-9.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

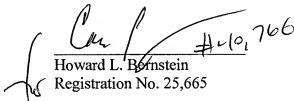
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